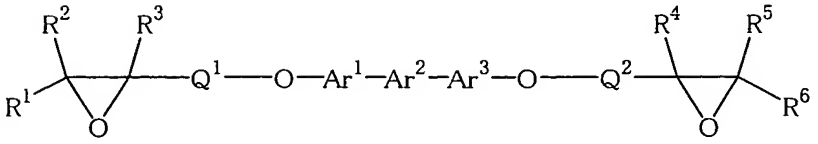
CLAIMS

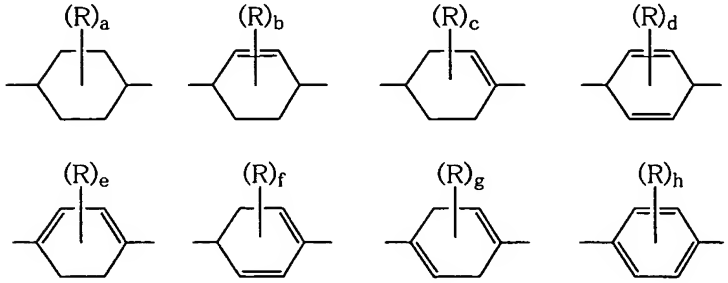
1. An epoxy compound represented by the formula (1):



(1)

wherein

Ar^1, Ar^2 and Ar^3 are the same or different and each denotes any one of divalent groups represented by the following formulas:



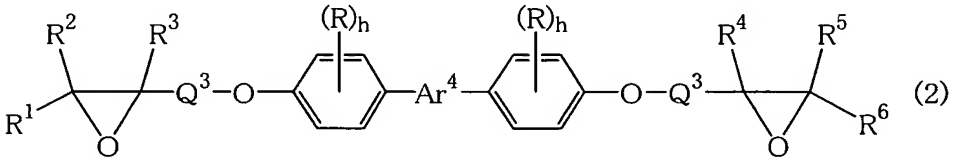
in which R denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, a denotes an integer of 1 to 8, b, e and g denote an integer of 1 to 6, c denotes an integer of 1 to 7, d and h denote an integer of 1 to 4, and f denotes an integer of 1 to 5, and when more than one R exists in said divalent group, all of R may be the same group or different groups;

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms;

Q^1 and Q^2 are the same or different and each denotes a

straight-chain alkylene group of 1 to 9 carbon atoms, in which methylene groups composing the straight-chain alkylene group are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms and -O- or -N(R^7)- is optionally inserted between the methylene groups, in which R^7 denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms.

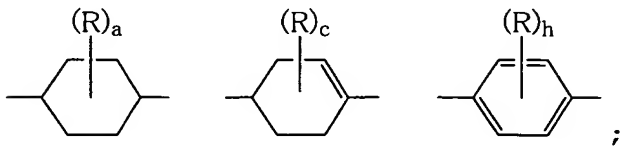
2. The epoxy compound according to Claim 1, which is represented by the formula (2):



(2)

wherein

Ar^4 denotes any one of divalent groups represented by the following formulas:



;

R, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, a, c and h are as defined above; and

Q^3 denotes any one of groups represented by the following formulas:

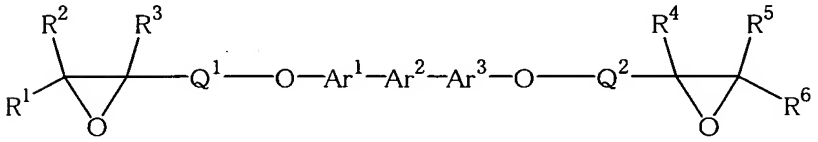
$-(CH_2)_m-$ $-(CH_2)_p-O-(CH_2)_q-$

in which m denotes an integer of 1 to 9, p and q denote an

integer of 1 to 8, and the sum of p and q is 9 or less, and methylene groups composing the group represented by Q^3 are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms.

3. The epoxy compound according to Claim 2, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5 and R^6 are hydrogen atoms.

4. A method for producing an epoxy compound represented by the following formula (1):

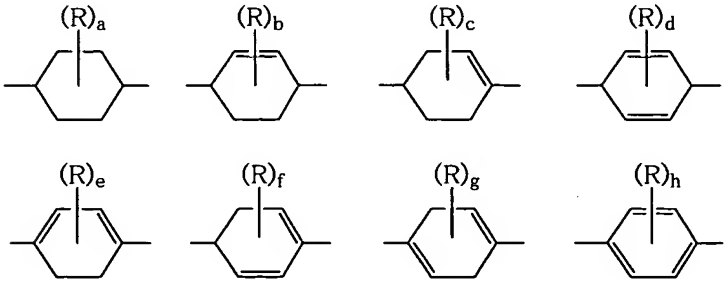


(1)

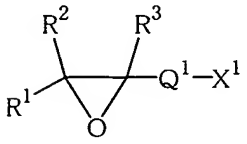
wherein Ar^1, Ar^2, Ar^3, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, Q^1 and Q^2 each are as defined below, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula (3):

$$HO—Ar^1—Ar^2—Ar^3—OH \qquad (3)$$

wherein Ar^1, Ar^2 and Ar^3 are the same or different and each denotes any one of divalent groups represented by the following formulas:

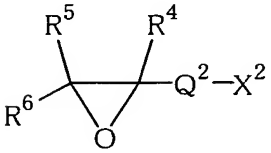


in which R denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, a denotes an integer of 1 to 8, b, e and g denote an integer of 1 to 6, c denotes an integer of 1 to 7, d and h denote an integer of 1 to 4, and f denotes an integer of 1 to 5, and when more than one R exists in said divalent group, all of R may be the same group or different groups; a compound represented by the formula (4):



(4)

wherein R^1, R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Q^1 denotes a straight-chain alkylene group of 1 to 9 carbon atoms, in which methylene groups composing the straight-chain alkylene group are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms and -O- or -$N(R^7)$- is optionally inserted between the methylene groups, in which R^7 denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and X^1 denotes a halogen atom; and a compound represented by the following formula (5):



(5)

wherein R^4, R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each

denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Q^2 denotes a straight-chain alkylene group of 1 to 9 carbon atoms, in which methylene groups composing the straight-chain alkylene group are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms and -O- or -$N(R^7)$- is optionally inserted between the methylene groups, in which R^7 denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and X^2 denotes a halogen atom, in the presence of a base.

5. An epoxy composition comprising the epoxy compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 and a curing agent.

6. The epoxy composition according to Claim 5, wherein the curing agent is 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane, 4,4'-diaminodiphenylethane, 1,5-diaminonaphthalene or p-phenylenediamine.

7. A cured epoxy resin obtained by curing the epoxy composition according to Claim 5 or 6.

8. A prepreg obtained by applying or impregnating the epoxy composition according to Claim 5 or 6 to or into a base material, followed by semi-curing.